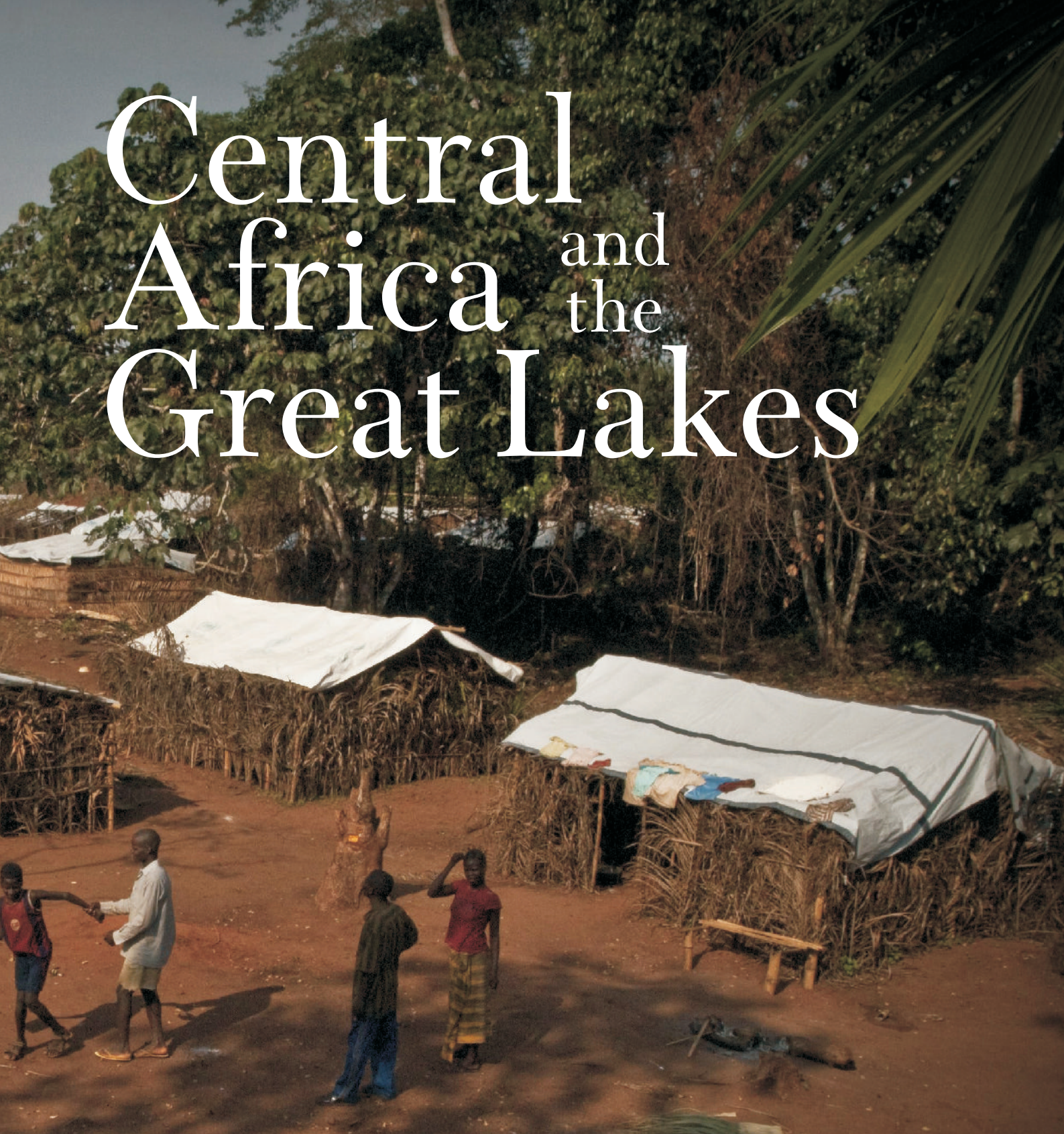


Refugees from DRC in the Central African Republic
have built simple huts from leaves to find shelter.



Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Republic of the Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Rwanda
United Republic of Tanzania

Central Africa and the Great Lakes



| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR continued to strengthen the capacity of States in the subregion to conduct refugee status determination (RSD).
- Some 120,000 Congolese refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) fleeing fighting in the country's *Equateur* province arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Republic of the Congo (Congo).
- UNHCR assisted a total of some 49,600 Burundian and Rwandan refugees to return home from the DRC, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as more than 18,460 refugees from the DRC to return home from Tanzania and Zambia.
- UNHCR supported the resettlement of more than 1,520 refugees, mainly from the DRC and Burundi.
- The Government of Tanzania naturalized some 155,000 Burundian refugees.
- UNHCR led the protection clusters in the DRC, the CAR and the Congo.

CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES



Working environment

The peace process in Burundi continued in 2009, notably with the transformation of Palipehutu-FNL into a political party. The United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) until the end of 2010. Voluntary disarmament of civilians accompanied the demobilization of 8,500 ex-combatants of the FNL, which helped to stabilize the political situation. Meanwhile, returnees experienced difficulties in gaining access to land.

Security improved in Tanzania and all but two refugee camps were closed. In the Congo, a national reconciliation process was underway. The economic situation in Cameroon deteriorated, affecting refugees' livelihoods. In Burundi, UNHCR's operations were affected by hikes in the price of petroleum, strikes in the public sector and a reduction in economic growth.

New population displacement occurred in the CAR due to clashes between government forces and rebel groups. Some areas remain difficult to reach, hampering UNHCR's assistance activities. Moreover, armed conflict between ethnic groups in the DRC propelled massive displacements within the country and into the Congo and the CAR. In addition, the departure of Rwandan Government troops from the Kivus in the DRC led combatants of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Mayi-Mayi militia groups to reposition themselves in those territories.

Many incidents of gender-based violence were reported in the DRC. In Rwanda, a new gender law contained punishments for gender-based violence.

No RSD took place in Rwanda, in spite of new asylum applications. Repatriation of Rwandan refugees became a priority, and the Government called on UNHCR to invoke the cessation clause for Rwandan refugees. A road map for action was agreed, with an aim of invoking the cessation clause by the end of 2011.

Regional cooperation was reinforced, with bilateral agreements between the DRC and Rwanda and the re-invigoration of the *Communauté économique des pays des Grands Lacs*.

Achievements and impact

Voluntary repatriation remained the preferred durable solution for most refugees in the subregion. In 2009, some 32,000 Burundians were assisted in their return, as were a small number of refugees from the Republic of the Congo. Sixty-two refugees departed from Cameroon to their countries of origin, 110 repatriated from the Congo and 12 repatriated from the CAR. Some 49,600 Rwandan and Burundian refugees in the DRC, Uganda and Tanzania returned to their countries of origin, and 18,460 refugees repatriated to the DRC from Tanzania and Zambia. In addition, more than 400 refugees in the region were submitted for resettlement. Naturalization became a durable solution for 155,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania who gained Tanzanian citizenship.

To achieve long-term solutions, governments in the subregion and UNHCR collaborated on registration, verification exercises and RSD, as well as on the provision of identity documents for people of concern.

UNHCR reinforced its assistance and protection activities for urban and camp-based refugees, especially in the areas of shelter, food, non-food items, education and community services, emphasizing self-reliance among refugees and vulnerable populations. Special assistance was provided to vulnerable refugees and those with specific needs. High standards of basic services in the camps kept mortality low. UNHCR served as the lead agency for the protection cluster.

The Office continued to provide legal assistance and training on protection and refugee issues to government and immigration officials and police and security officers.

Constraints

Insecurity limited UNHCR's access to IDPs in the DRC, which restricted protection and assistance delivery. In the Congo, some refugees could only be reached by boat, which limited access during the dry season. In Cameroon, refugees remained scattered in more than 70 settlements along the border with the CAR. Their dispersal made it difficult to reach them and increased the operational costs involved.

The socio-economic situation in most countries in the region limited prospects for local integration. The Office could not achieve its plans for voluntary repatriation in many cases, as refugees feared return to areas prone to violence, and others experienced difficulties with land restitution. Urban refugees and the most vulnerable were transferred to camps as they could not sustain their basic needs without assistance.

A group of Burundian refugees were *refouled* from Rwanda. The Rwandan authorities refused to deliver individual identity documents to refugees, and were unwilling to consider local integration for them.

Operations

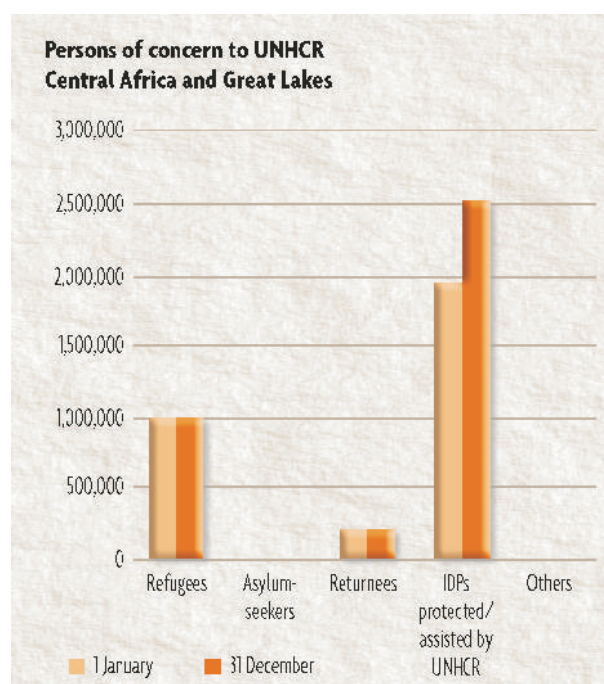
UNHCR's operations in **Burundi**, **Cameroon**, the **Central African Republic**, the **Republic of the Congo**, the **Democratic**

Republic of the Congo, **Rwanda** and the **United Republic of Tanzania** are presented in separate chapters.

In **Gabon**, UNHCR's main objectives were to improve the delivery of protection and assistance by providing identity documents for refugees, and to enable refugees to obtain access to the labour market. Gabon hosted more than 13,130 people of concern, including more than 9,000 refugees from the Congo. More than 390 cases were identified for resettlement and 56 refugees were repatriated to their countries of origin.

Financial information

Operations in the subregion were relatively well funded in 2009, although budgets did not allow UNHCR to meet the needs, especially those for self-reliance and re-integration activities.



Budget and expenditure in Central Africa and the Great Lakes (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Burundi	33,959,187	5,575,715	39,534,902	29,780,677	4,921,453	34,702,129
Cameroon	11,673,990	10,000	11,683,990	9,398,460	10,000	9,408,460
Central African Republic	3,552,787	2,998,080	6,550,867	3,488,661	2,229,636	5,718,297
Chad	92,573,124	11,705,080	104,278,204	90,191,004	6,353,369	96,544,372
Democratic Republic of the Congo	52,093,534	27,417,078	79,510,612	48,799,583	24,968,379	73,767,962
Gabon	2,361,616	0	2,361,616	2,151,713	0	2,151,713
Republic of the Congo	8,456,302	0	8,456,302	7,945,303	0	7,945,303
Rwanda	13,261,154	19,408	13,280,562	10,960,879	19,408	10,980,287
United Republic of Tanzania	29,634,768	20,811,809	50,446,577	24,596,808	18,538,663	43,135,471
Regional activities ¹	7,460,000	0	7,460,000	6,762,891	0	6,762,891
Total	255,026,462	68,537,170	323,563,632	234,075,979	57,040,908	291,116,886

¹ Includes activities for resettlement, repatriation and care and maintenance, as well as light aircraft charters.

Note: Excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.

CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES

Voluntary contributions to Central Africa and the Great Lakes (USD)				
Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total
Central Africa and Great Lakes subregion	Canada	1,757,189		1,757,189
	Denmark	4,385,901		4,385,901
	Finland	5,007,153		5,007,153
	Luxembourg	2,217,454		2,217,454
	Netherlands		2,051,470	2,051,470
	Sweden	6,501,951		6,501,951
Central Africa and Great Lakes subtotal		19,869,647	2,051,470	21,921,117
Burundi	Belgium	1,438,849	675,872	2,114,721
	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		651,188	651,188
	Denmark	4,706,979		4,706,979
	European Commission	8,606,434	367,945	8,974,379
	Finland		675,872	675,872
	Germany	1,628,283	35,343	1,663,627
	Great Lakes Initiative Project on AIDS (GLIA)	371,740		371,740
	Japan	1,756,198		1,756,198
	Joint UN Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS)	158,221		158,221
	Netherlands	1,470,588		1,470,588
	Norway	1,788,909		1,788,909
	UN Foundation (USA)	395,000		395,000
	United Kingdom	1,266,636		1,266,636
	United States of America	6,061,976		6,061,976
Burundi subtotal		29,649,814	2,406,220	32,056,034
Central African Republic	Belgium		669,065	669,065
	Canada	88,567	67,391	155,958
	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		392,492	392,492
	Luxembourg	357,654		357,654
	Turkey		23,250	23,250
	UN Foundation (USA)	41,000		41,000
	United States of America		744,000	744,000
Central African Republic subtotal		487,221	1,896,198	2,383,419
Cameroon	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands)	14,306		14,306
	United Kingdom	168,566		168,566
	United States of America	750,000		750,000
Cameroon subtotal		932,872		932,872
Chad	Australia for UNHCR	545,569		545,569
	Canada	1,811,594	742,812	2,554,406
	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	1,928,860	200,000	2,128,860
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO</i> (Germany)	172,662		172,662
	<i>España con ACNUR</i> (Spain)	39,837		39,837
	European Commission	8,016,878		8,016,878
	France	524,934	366,142	891,076
	Germany	2,270,041		2,270,041
	HQ Online Donations (Switzerland)	4,899		4,899
	Ireland	1,112,532	154,604	1,267,136
	Japan	4,911,157		4,911,157
	Japan Association for UNHCR	59,866		59,866
	Luxembourg	715,308		715,308
	Netherlands	2,212,780	335,005	2,547,785
	Norway	1,246,011	254,369	1,500,380
	OPEC Fund for International Development	110,000		110,000
	Private donors in Canada	285,405		285,405
	Private donors in Greece	1,308		1,308
	Private donors in Italy	323,616		323,616
	Private donors in Luxembourg	180		180
	Private donors in the United Kingdom	963		963
	Private donors in the United States	125		125
	Spain	1,561,340		1,561,340

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Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total
	Sweden	650,195	1,047,297	1,697,492
	Switzerland	1,033,827		1,033,827
	Turkey		46,500	46,500
	UN Foundation (USA)	1,360,000		1,360,000
	United States of America	20,316,994	2,883,000	23,199,994
	USA for UNHCR	1,484,888		1,484,888
	Chad subtotal	52,701,770	6,029,728	58,731,498
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Andorra		9,154	9,154
	Australia		2,518,202	2,518,202
	Australia for UNHCR		654,614	654,614
	Belgium		1,387,685	1,387,685
	Canada	1,610,306	1,123,188	2,733,494
	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		1,967,246	1,967,246
	Common Humanitarian Fund for the DRC	145,650	2,340,172	2,485,822
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO</i> (Germany)	127,877	83,248	211,125
	<i>España con ACNUR</i> (Spain)	305,292		305,292
	Estonia	84,521		84,521
	European Commission	2,789,400		2,789,400
	France		488,189	488,189
	Germany	2,317,591	1,461,221	3,778,812
	Great Lakes Initiative Project on AIDS (GLIA)	390,000		390,000
	HQ Online Donations (Switzerland)	24	14,234	14,258
	Japan	9,479,339		9,479,339
	Japan Association for UNHCR		19,124	19,124
	Joint UN Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS)	243,578		243,578
	Luxembourg	715,308		715,308
	Private donors in Canada		69,068	69,068
	Private donors in China	63	4,843	4,906
	Private donors in Italy		460,547	460,547
	Private donors in Sweden		66,524	66,524
	Private donors in the United Kingdom	65	9,295	9,360
	Private donors in the United States	30		30
	Russian Federation		1,860,000	1,860,000
	Spain	3,626,197	518,828	4,145,026
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands)		95,210	95,210
	Sweden	9,102,731		9,102,731
	Switzerland	609,225		609,225
	UN Foundation (USA)	350,000		350,000
	UN Trust Fund for Human Security		388,178	388,178
United States of America	13,915,577	9,488,290	23,403,867	
USA for UNHCR	5,306	88,540	93,846	
	Democratic Republic of Congo subtotal	45,818,081	25,115,600	70,933,681
Republic of the Congo	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	2,674,018		2,674,018
	Italy	443,787		443,787
	OPEC Fund for International Development	101,559		101,559
	United States of America	25,959		25,959
	Republic of the Congo subtotal	3,245,323		3,245,323
Gabon	United States of America	5,000		5,000
	Gabon subtotal	5,000		5,000
Rwanda	Germany	131,476		131,476
	Great Lakes Initiative Project on AIDS (GLIA)	530,000		530,000
	OPEC Fund for International Development	40,000		40,000
	Private donors in Sweden	140,666		140,666
	UN Delivering As One	350,237		350,237
	UN Foundation (USA)	254,000		254,000
	United States of America	2,499,801		2,499,801
	USA for UNHCR	653,819		653,819
	Rwanda subtotal	4,600,000		4,600,000

CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES

Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total
United Republic of Tanzania	Belgium		1,308,017	1,308,017
	European Commission	4,409,911	6,409,076	10,818,987
	Finland		1,351,744	1,351,744
	Germany	248,782	1,210,199	1,458,980
	Great Lakes Initiative Project on AIDS (GLIA)	445,658		445,658
	Greece	33,000		33,000
	Ireland		327,004	327,004
	Japan	2,049,587	934,579	2,984,166
	Norway		499,106	499,106
	OPEC Fund for International Development	102,837		102,837
	Private donors in Italy	43,639		43,639
	UN Foundation (USA)	200,286		200,286
	United Kingdom	167,626		167,626
	United States of America	4,837,554	2,976,000	7,813,554
		United Republic of Tanzania subtotal	12,538,880	15,015,725
Total		169,848,606	52,514,941	222,363,547

Note: Contributions listed above exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.